

NAVAJO COUNTY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Texas A & M (TEEX) provides EOC Planning and Operations Training

Navajo County Emergency Management hosted a three day training and exercise event February 9 through 11. The EOC Planning and Operations training conducted by professional facilitators from Texas A & M Engineering Extension Service was attended by 28 first responders and support personnel from jurisdictions throughout Arizona. The course provided participants the skills necessary to effectively plan and manage incidents by applying all-hazards multi-disciplinary management team approach. The last day of class had participants roleplaying in a simulation of an emergency event.

Behavioral Health Coalition

Forming the Behavior Health Coalition was an action as a result of a gap identified in a recent tabletop workshop after action review. Due to limited resources in Navajo and Apache counties in the behavior healthcare field forming the coalition made sense so that information, training and exercises can be coordinated and providers from the various agencies can work together with the whole community approach in response and recovery. The coalition periodically meets to discuss training, education opportunities, new concepts and invite new stakeholders to join.

Arizona Emergency Services Association Conference

The Emergency Services conference was held at Twin Arrows Resort on February 18, 2016. Byron Steward, Emergency Manager for Mohave County presided over the event. Presenters spoke to a packed house on such topics as response to an active shooter incident, successful CERT teams, tribal emergency planning. FEMA was on hand to assist in getting the applications processed for IPAWS emergency warning system and there were several opportunities for networking with emergency managers, school, volunteer agencies, behavioral health and other support resources.



Navajo County conducts Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise

The core capability tested in the recent active shooter tabletop exercise was operational coordination. The scenario was an active shooter in the court facilities. Participants from Apache and Navajo Courts, Probation, Sheriff's Office's, jail, Emergency Management, DPS, DEMA and Holbrook Police Department discussed what employees should do and how to respond to and recover from such an event. Discussions during the exercise identified gaps that will be addressed prior to the full-scale exercise planned for July 2016.



Emergency Management News



CERT Teams in Training

Community Emergency Response Teams are busy around the County training so they can respond to emergencies and events. Snowflake-Taylor CERT team recently participated in CPR and First Aid training at the Taylor Snowflake Fire and Medical facility. Instructor Rhonda Krouse provided instruction and all participants passed the written exam and received their training certificate.



The other CERT Teams who are part of the Navajo County Citizen Corp Council are; Hopi CERT led by Roger Tungovia, Joseph City CERT led by Jess Bushman, Snowflake-Taylor CERT led by Michael Bethea and Heber-Overgaard CERT led by Dan Mapstone.

Governor Appoints New Member

Governor Doug Ducey appointed Mary Springer to the Homeland Security Northern Regional Advisory Council replacing Sheriff Clark as Member-at-Large on the Council. Mary will be officially recognized at the March 29, 2016 meeting of the Council.

Community Wildfire Protection Draft Plans Ready for Review

The Sitgreaves and Central Navajo Communities Community Wildfire Protection Plans are ready for jurisdictional review and comment. The plan revisions are a culmination of several core team meetings providing input and update from Federal, State and local Forestry and Fire agencies, Cooperative Extension, County and local jurisdictions. The plan revisions incorporate regional landscape analyses of wildfire risk to communities, use of standardized and new fire behavior models and is current with Federal and State wildland fire management and response. Comments are due on March 15 and plans should be ready for public review and comment by mid-April.

Fire Season Headed our Way

Fire season in the White Mountains usually begins late March or early April depending on the wind and lack of moisture. El Nino has not provided the anticipated winter storms so the potential for wildfire danger this year is expected to be higher than last year. The Fire Restrictions Coordinating Group will begin weekly coordination teleconferences in April to ensure unified communications to jurisdictions, citizens and visitors to our communities. So far this year there have been 120 wildfires statewide, all human caused and 6,657 acres burned.



Activities - March 2016

- ◆ Community Values Committee
- ◆ Traffic Control Training
- ◆ Emergency Communications - RACES
- ◆ Cibecue Community Event
- ◆ Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council Grant Application Review